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MEMORANDUM

13 January 1949

To: []

From: []

Subject: Zako Organization.

Ref: WASHG 7241

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 2828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The Zako Organization referred to in the above named cable is called "Kopjas". This organization includes approximately 300 Hungarian ex-Army officers, most of whom were notorious Nazis.

2. The organization also includes at its top level a number of compromised politicians who pretend to represent a kind of Hungarian government-in-exile organization.

3. The organization is ostensibly under the leadership of General Farkas de Barnahazy who is especially influential with the military element in the organization. While Farkas is the visible leader of the "Kopjas", the real leader is General Zako.

4. Besides its membership in Germany and Austria, the organization undoubtedly has members and followers in Hungary but I do not have any reliable information as to their actual number.

5. Regarding their operational potential from our point of view, we can certainly assume that the organization is able to send border-crossers into and out of Hungary almost at will and that they are maintaining close contact with a rather large group of followers in Hungary.

6. Originally, the organization was formed at the request of the French who financially supported the organization. The plan at that time was that, in case of war, the Zako organization would be used as a nucleus to form an independent Hungarian army. In addition to their income from French sources, it is known that they often undertake smuggling operations, including direct assistance to Hungarian refugees escaping across the Hungarian border.

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7. In addition to their relationship to the French, I am informed that the organization is also in touch with other official governmental organizations engaged in intelligence work. However, the identity of these organizations is unknown to me.

8. When our Hungarian operation is more fully developed, we could look into the possibility of using certain members of the "Popjas" organization. In doing so, we could completely circumvent Farbas, if possible, and restrict our contact and negotiations to General Zako who, I am confident, will be able to place at our disposal a limited number of highly competent men responsible directly to him and having no close ties with Farbas.

9. When we are ready to approach General Zako, this can be accomplished through General Hennyey, an intimate friend of Zako's and personally closely indebted to me since I was directly instrumental in saving his life.

2

7

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